## PUBLIC NOTICE Great Bear 2011-2012 Exploration and Evaluation Program (Alaska)

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G), has received a permit application from Great Bear Petroleum LLC (Great Bear) to perform an exploration drilling and evaluation program along the Dalton Highway and Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) corridor during the 2011-2012 season. DO&G is providing public notice and an opportunity to comment under 38.05.035(e)(1)(C)(ii).

Applicant/Agent: Great Bear Petroleum LLC, Ed Duncan

**Location:** The proposed project is located from Township 7 N, Range 14E, to Township 5N, Range 14E, Umiat Meridian. Decimal Degrees, NAD 83 Latitude 69.79 to 69.98, Longitude -148.72 to

-148.68. ADLs 391663, 391678, 391680, 391683, 391706, 391707.

**Project Description:** Great Bear is proposing to perform an exploration drilling and evaluation program along the Dalton Highway and Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) corridor during the 2011-2012 season. The Exploration and Evaluation Program would include drilling four vertical wells with the option of two additional wells, if necessary. Activities include, gravel fill: (1) placement of gravel extending from TAPS spur access roads (transitional driveways) to rig mats over tundra to avoid surface disturbance, (2) placement of gravel over previously disturbed gravel sites minimizing the project's overall environmental impact. In addition to the gravel fill activities, Great Bear will minimize the project's overall environmental impact by surrounding the sites with impermeable liners to serve as secondary or tertiary containment.

The application meets all of the requirements of 11 AAC 83.346.

**Purpose:** Great Bear wants to evaluate the hydrocarbon potential on their leased acreage and proposes to conduct exploration drilling and evaluation activities, on an already disturbed and active industrial area. Using this area will consolidate activities to existing infrastructure, and will minimize environmental impacts. Fieldwork and summer studies were conducted in accordance with Letter of Non-Objection (LNO) 11-32 from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company dated July 13, 2011 and for the period commencing July 13, 2011 and terminating August 31, 2011. Twelve (12) potential drill sites were selected from the aerial photography. The two field trips narrowed the sites to six proposed drill sites.

**Authorizations:** The following State and Federal authorizations may be issued:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Oil and Gas (DOG)

DNR Mining Land and Water Temporary Water Use Permit (TWUP)

Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Title 16 (water withdrawal from fish bearing lakes).

## All comments must be received by the Comment Deadline: 4:30 pm, Alaska Time, 10/31/2011

A notice has been sent to Post Offices in: Prudhoe Bay, Nuiqsut and Barrow, Alaska. The application package is available for review at the DO&G, Permitting Section, 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 800, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, or online at

http://www.dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Permitting/Permitting.htm. Please send your comments to Bruce Buzby by e-mail bruce.buzby@alaska.gov, or by mail to the DO&G address above.

Only persons who comment in writing during the public comment period will be eligible to file an administrative appeal or to request reconsideration of the final decision (11 AAC 02.010). A copy of the final decision will be sent to any person who provides written comments.

The Department of Natural Resources complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This Notice will be made available in alternative communication formats upon request. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate may contact the number or address above.